

# THE DIAL

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## THE HERO AS STATESMAN.\*

To many brilliant achievements Gen. Schurz has added another—that of successful biography. When he had won distinction as a debater in the Senate of the United States, his critics conceded that his command of the English language was remarkable and his scholarship thorough, but claimed that he was a theoretical and not a practical statesman. An opportunity soon offered, and at the head of one of the great departments of government—that of the Interior, which is even more complicated than the Treasury department—he displayed executive ability of a very high order, and the people at the polls expressed their approval of the acts of the administration of which he was a member by an emphatic majority. When it was announced that he would write the life of the great American statesman, there were many, even of his personal friends, who doubted the wisdom of such an undertaking. Could one born and educated in a foreign land enter into the spirit of the political career of the most distinctively American statesman this country

has ever seen? Could he understand the motives of the actor? Would not the writer's own political theories, known to be opposed to those of the great leader, so bias his judgment as to deprive the work of any real value? Happily these doubts, that seemed so well founded, have not been confirmed. The Life of Henry Clay deserves to be placed first in the list of American biographies, for purity and dignity of style, for accuracy of statement, and for clear apprehension of the physical and moral forces involved in the great political contests of the time. The interest excited in the beginning is sustained to the end.

No other political leader in this country has ever moved the human heart, in his own lifetime, so profoundly as Henry Clay. Supporters of his in 1844, still living, mourn his defeat as if it were but of yesterday. Two of these survivors—men who have won distinction in public life, and who spoke from the same platform in 1840, 1842, and 1844,—recently entertained me with their reminiscences of Henry Clay. Though dead a quarter of a century, he is still hero and leader to them. My early years were spent in this atmosphere of hero-worship. I recollect, when a child, being taken by my father, who was a zealous follower of the great Kentuckian, to attend a meeting at which Mr. Clay was to speak. After all these years, I see before me a man of commanding presence addressing in God's own temple a vast assemblage of people gathered from a district whose radius was a hundred miles, and who were content to sleep in wagons or in tents if they could but see their hero—so many people, they seemed to be "the whole world." Now perfect quiet prevails, and now the earth resounds with thunders of applause. Men and women alternately laugh and weep; and although the orator withdraws from the ground, they remain spell-bound until night disperses them. In connection with this precious impression, I am tempted to quote here from a letter just received from one who knew Mr. Clay personally, and who has since reached the highest place in the Republic: "I am glad you can speak so well of Schurz's book on Clay. But no man can realize to this generation the love and admiration he inspired in the most intelligent people of average condition—nay, of all conditions in America."

This affectionate regard was born of a conviction of the statesman's thorough integrity, enlightened judgment, and pure and unselfish patriotism; a patriotism that sacrifices all—home, wife, children, place and power—to

\* LIFE OF HENRY CLAY. By Carl Schurz. In two volumes. American Statesmen Series. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

one's country. The fascination of the man—the voice that so charmed the ear with its rich musical tones, the stirring eloquence, the graceful carriage, the winning social manners, and the manly way in which he faced his enemies—all confirmed and intensified this belief in the greatness of his patriotism, and placed the hero above the vicissitudes that so often deprive statesmen of public favor. While recognizing this remarkable fascination, Gen. Schurz has avoided the "rhapsodic eulogy" of other writers, and has succeeded in giving us a clear account of Clay's views on matters of public interest, and his relations to men and administrations. He truly says:

"This is not an easy task; for Henry Clay had, during the long period of his public life, covering nearly half a century, a larger share in national legislation than any other contemporary statesman,—not, indeed, as an originator of ideas and systems, but as an arranger of measures, and as a leader of political forces. His public life may therefore be said to be an important part of the national history."

It is not my purpose to follow Gen. Schurz in his review of the striking events of a half century, but only to refer briefly to three or four of the events in the political career of Mr. Clay. That political career began when he was scarcely twenty-three years of age, in the advocacy of liberal views of public policy. The people of Kentucky, dissatisfied with the election of the governor and State senators through the medium of electors, called a convention to revise the Constitution of the State.

"This convention was to meet in 1799. Some public-spirited men thought this a favorable opportunity to attempt to rid the State of slavery. An amendment to the Constitution was prepared, providing for general emancipation; and among its advocates in the popular discussions which preceded the meeting of the convention, Clay was one of the most ardent. It was to this cause that he devoted his first essays as a writer for the press, and his first political speeches in popular assemblies."

He never ceased to dislike the institution of slavery, and to hope for its final eradication; and yet the realization of his highest ambition was frustrated by impracticable and unreasonable anti-slavery men of the North, whose votes were cast so as to give an indirect support to the party pledged to the perpetuation of human bondage. This inconsistency is a stain upon the otherwise honorable careers of intelligent and devoted men, which no human sophistry can blot out. In their infatuation they would have condemned Abraham Lincoln as surely as Henry Clay. I differ with Gen. Schurz as to the moral responsibility of the men who supported Birney in 1844. I can find no ground of justification for their course in sacrificing a great statesman who would have served the country well in the

executive chair—a liberty-loving, patriotic leader—and elevating to high place one so utterly unfit for high station as Jas. K. Polk, who was pledged to extend the institution of slavery until it should be nationalized. With Clay in the Presidential chair, the influence of the Executive would have been against a war with Mexico and against slavery extension. The American people might have been spared all that wretched and humiliating history—the infamous Mexican war, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the Kansas-Nebraska legislation and warfare, the Dred Scott decision, and other events leading up to the bloody civil war. In this sense of preferring evil to good for their country, Birney and his supporters were faithless not only to their country, but to Mr. Clay, who had a strong moral claim on them for their support. Gen. Schurz is in error when he says: "Clay and Birney had maintained a friendly intercourse until 1834; but in June of that year they had a conference on the subject of slavery, which produced upon Birney a discouraging effect. From that time their friendly intercourse ceased, and Clay found in Birney only a severe critic." The fact is shown by letters still extant, that Birney, the Tappans, and John G. Whittier, continued to appeal to Mr. Clay to become their leader until 1838, and they had no doubt of the soundness of his convictions on the subject of slavery. They promised him great fame on earth, and a high place in Heaven, if he would consent. But Clay had a profounder knowledge of human nature, and of the difficulties in the way of immediate emancipation, and may have appeared impatient at their impractical plans. "After all," wrote Senator Mangum to a fellow Senator in 1832, "I regard Clay's common-sense as his greatest quality." Clay was for confining slavery to the narrowest possible limits, reducing its power in the government, encouraging free labor, educating the people, and encouraging emancipation, until there should be a moral force sufficiently strong to secure the gradual extinction of slavery without seriously disturbing the relations between the States. He did not fail to speak out plainly on the subject of slavery, on every proper occasion. Thus, we find him in 1849, in a letter written from New Orleans intended for the people of Kentucky, arguing the question. I quote from Gen. Schurz's work:

"If slavery were really a blessing, he reasoned, 'the principle on which it is maintained would require that one portion of the white race should be reduced to bondage to serve another portion of the same race, when black subjects of slavery could not be obtained; and that in Africa, where they may entertain as great a preference for their color as we do for ours, they would be justified in re-

ducing the white race to slavery in order to secure the blessings which that state is said to diffuse.' In the same style he punctured the argument that the superiority of the white race over the black justified the enslavement of the inferior. 'It would prove entirely too much,' said he. 'It would prove that any white nation which had made greater advances in civilization, knowledge, and wisdom, than another white nation would have the right to reduce the latter to a state of bondage. Nay, further, if the principle be applicable to races and nations, what is to prevent its being applied to individuals? And then the wisest man in the world would have a right to make slaves of all the rest of mankind.' There was in this something of Benjamin Franklin's manner of pointing an argument. Clay had evidently written it with zest."

Five years before this, the Abolitionists had defeated him for the Presidency, and at this very time they were publicly abusing him.

Clay served a short time in the U. S. Senate in 1806, and attracted attention as a ready and graceful debater; but his first conspicuous service was in influencing the Madison Administration to declare war against Great Britain. The timid policy of the second term of Jefferson had brought this country into contempt abroad, and ill-timed embargoes had nearly destroyed its commerce and business enterprises in other fields. He believed a war to be the only way to relieve the country from its false position. When President Madison had once taken the plunge, he wanted to make Clay commander of the forces in the field, but was dissuaded by Gallatin, who asked what they would do without Clay in Congress. The war has been the subject of much bitter controversy, but upon the whole it was beneficial. Said Clay:

"We had been insulted, and outraged, and spoliated upon by almost all Europe,—by Great Britain, by France, Spain, Denmark, Naples, and, to cap the climax, by the little contemptible power of Algiers. We had submitted too long and too much. We had become the scorn of foreign powers, and the derision of our own citizens. What have we gained by the war? Let any man look at the degraded condition of this country before the war, the scorn of the universe, the contempt of ourselves; and tell me if we have gained nothing by the war? What is our situation now? Respectability and character abroad, security and confidence at home."

As one of the Commissioners on behalf of the United States, he was not pleased with the Treaty of Ghent, but the occasion afforded an opportunity for a display of his intense Americanism, and his influence was exerted to prevent a surrender of valuable rights to Great Britain. Gen. Schurz seems to accept the account of these negotiations given by Adams and Gallatin, which claimed for them the chief honors; but there are unpublished letters of Russell, and of Hughes, one of the Secretaries, which charge Adams and Bayard

and Gallatin with having formed a clique for the purpose of depriving their fellow Commissioners of their due share in the work, and which declare that much was due to the firmness, coolness, and patriotism of Clay.

Thenceforth the life of Henry Clay was devoted to the service of his country, in the active participation in all of the great events of his time—as Speaker of the House, as Secretary of State, as Senator, and as leader of the National Republican and Whig parties. He was the promoter of Internal Improvements, the champion of an American policy in the relations of our government to the Spanish countries, the "Father of the American System," the successful advocate of the Missouri Compromise and of the Tariff Compromise of 1833; the promoter of a liberal policy in the management of the public domain for the benefit of the people; active in securing an honorable settlement with France in 1835, and in the passage of the Compromise measures of 1850. He had led in the fight for the re-chartering of the United States Bank, and in all the fierce contests with President Jackson during the eight years' reign of that remarkable man.

I pass by the election of Adams through the help of Clay in 1824-5, the bitter political campaign of 1828 which resulted in the election of Jackson, the Nullification crisis of 1832-3, and the fierce contest later between the administration and the opposition leaders—Clay and Webster—in the Senate. It was a battle of the giants, in which the honors were with the statesmen, and the victory with the grim military chieftain in the White House. The chapters covering the reign of Jackson are of absorbing interest, and any attempt to abridge the story would destroy its effect.

The closing scenes of the public career of Henry Clay are of dramatic interest. All of his energies were devoted to the work of bringing about harmony between the North and South, and averting civil war. I quote at some length from the author's account of the debate on the Compromise Measures of 1850, which was participated in by Clay, Webster, Calhoun, Corwin, Jefferson Davis, Seward, and Chase, so as clearly to show the patriotic bearing of the great leader during these closing days, when the hearts of the people were filled with forebodings of evil.

"On February 5, Clay supported his plan of adjustment with a great speech. The infirmities of old age began to tell upon him. Walking up to the Capitol he asked a friend who accompanied him, 'Will you lend me your arm? I feel myself quite weak and exhausted this morning.' He ascended the long flight of steps with difficulty, being several times obliged to stop in order to recover his breath. The friend suggested that he should defer his speech, as he was too ill to exert

himself that day. 'I consider our country in danger,' replied Clay; 'and if I can be the means in any measure of averting that danger, my health and life is of little consequence.' When he arrived at the Senate chamber, he beheld a spectacle well apt to inspire an orator. For several days his intention had been known to address the Senate on Feb. 5, and from far and near—from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and places still more distant—men and women had come in great numbers to hear him. The avenues of the Senate chamber were thronged with an eager multitude who in vain struggled to gain access to the thronged galleries and the equally crowded floor. When Clay arose to speak, an outburst of applause in the chamber greeted him. The noise was heard without, and the great crowd assembled there raised such a shout that the orator could not make himself heard until the officers of the Senate had gone out and cleared the entrances. Clay's speech occupied two days. With a faltering voice he began, but gradually recovered his strength; and the elevation of his sentiments, the sonorous flow of his words, and the lofty energy of his action, enchanted his audience to the last. On the second day of the speech some of his fellow-Senators, observing that he overtaxed himself, interrupted him repeatedly with suggestions of an adjournment, but he declined, feeling uncertain whether he would be able to go on the next day. When he had concluded, a great throng of friends, men and women, rushed toward him to shake his hand and to kiss him.

"His speech was an appeal to the North for concession, and to the South for peace. He asked the North whether the enactment of the Wilmot Proviso would not be an unnecessary provocation, since there was no slavery existing in the territories acquired from Mexico, and no probability of its introduction. Why not, then, give it up for the sake of harmony? He reminded his Southern friends that all the great acquisitions of territory—Louisiana, Florida, and Texas—had 'reounded to the benefit of the South,' and pointed out the injustice of their 'pressing matters to disastrous consequences,' when, for the first time, the attempt was made to introduce acquired territories without slavery. He emphatically denied the right of any State to secede from the Union, and the possibility of peaceful secession. 'War and the dissolution of the Union are identical,' he exclaimed; 'they are convertible terms; and such a war!' With prophetic words he foretold them their isolation in case of an armed conflict.

"If the two portions of the confederacy should be involved in civil war, in which the effort on the one side would be to restrain the introduction of slavery into the new territories, and on the other side to force its introduction there, what a spectacle should we present to the contemplation of astonished mankind! An effort to propagate wrong! It would be a war in which we should have no sympathy, no good wishes, and in which all mankind would be against us, and in which our own history itself would be against us!"

"His feelings told him the truth. Southern men indeed, counted upon British support in case of secession; and it may be said that, when eleven years later secession came, in a certain sense they had such support. But it is nevertheless true that, when the governments of Great Britain and France

were inclined to recognize the Southern Confederacy as an independent power, it was the abhorrence of slavery prevailing among civilized mankind, their own people included, more than any other influence, that restrained them, and kept the Southern Confederacy in its fatal isolation.

"On July 22, nearly six months after the introduction of his resolutions, and two and a half months after the Committee of Thirteen had presented its report, Clay made his closing speech. Ever since January 28 he had been on the floor almost day after day, sometimes so ill that he could hardly drag his tottering limbs to the Senate chamber. So he had toiled on, answering objections and arguing and pleading and expostulating and appealing, and beseeching, with anxious solicitude, for the Union, and for peace and harmony among all its people. He had thrown aside all sectional spirit. 'Sir,' he exclaimed once, 'I have heard something said about allegiance to the South. I know no South, no North, no East, no West, to which I owe any allegiance.' . . . And now, seeing his scheme of adjustment after all in great danger of defeat, he once more poured out all his patriotic fervor in a last appeal:

"I believe from the bottom of my soul that this measure is the reunion of the Union. And now let us discard all resentments, all passions, all petty jealousies, all personal desires, all love of place, all hungering after the gilded crumbs which fall from the table of power. Let us forget popular fears, from whatever quarter they may spring. Let us go to the fountain of unadulterated patriotism, and, performing a solemn lustration, return divested of all selfish, sinister, and sordid impurities, and think alone of our God, our country, our conscience, and our glorious Union."

"His patriotism was, however, not all meekness. In the same speech he severely censured the Abolitionists as reckless agitators, and denounced the Southern fire-eaters for their disunion tendencies, reflecting especially upon a member of the Nashville Convention, Rhett of South Carolina, who, after his return to Charleston, had in a public meeting openly proposed to hoist the standard of secession. When Clay had finished his appeal for peace and union, Barnwell of South Carolina, Calhoun's successor, rose and declared his dissatisfaction with Clay's remarks, 'not a little disrespectful to a friend' whom he held very dear, and upon whose character he then proceeded to pronounce a warm eulogy, intimating that the opinions held and expressed by Mr. Rhett might possibly be those of South Carolina. Clay was quickly upon his feet. 'Mr. President,' he replied, 'I said nothing with respect to the character of Mr. Rhett. I know him personally and have some respect for him. But, if he pronounced the sentiment attributed to him of raising the standard of disunion and of resistance to the common government, whatever he has been, if he follows up that declaration by corresponding overt acts,'—the old man's eye flashed and his voice rang out in a thundering peal—'he will be a traitor, and I hope he will meet the fate of a traitor!' Like an electric shock the word thrilled the audience, and volleys of applause broke forth from the crowded galleries. When order was restored, Clay continued:

"Mr. President, I have heard with pain and regret a confirmation of the remark I made, that the sentiment of disunion is becoming familiar. I

hope it is confined to South Carolina. I do not regard as my duty what the honorable Senator seems to regard as his. If Kentucky to-morrow unfurls the banner of resistance unjustly, I never will fight under that banner. I owe a paramount allegiance to the whole Union,—subordinate one to my own State. When my State is right—when it has a cause for resistance, when tyranny and wrong and oppression insufferable arise—I will then share her fortunes; but if she summons me to the battle-field, or to support her in any cause which is unjust, against the Union, never, *never* will I engage with her in such a cause!"

"The echo of these words was heard eleven years later, when the great crisis had come."

Henry Clay died on June 29, 1852, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He died in Washington, at his post, faithful to duty to the last. Gen. Schurz concludes his admirable biography in the following words:

"Whatever Clay's weaknesses of character and errors of statesmanship may have been, almost everything he said or did was illuminated by a grand conception of the destinies of his country, a glowing national spirit, a lofty patriotism. Whether he thundered against British tyranny on the seas, or urged the recognition of the South American sister republics, or attacked the high-handed conduct of the military chieftain in the Florida war, or advocated protection and internal improvements, or assailed the one-man power and spoils politics in the person of Andrew Jackson, or entreated for compromise and conciliation regarding the tariff or slavery; whether what he advocated was wise or unwise, right or wrong,—there was always ringing through his words a fervid plea for his country, a zealous appeal in behalf of the honor and the future greatness and glory of the Republic, or an anxious warning lest the Union, and with it the greatness and glory of the American people, be put in jeopardy. It was a just judgment which he pronounced upon himself when he wrote: 'If any one desires to know the leading and paramount object of my public life, the preservation of this Union will furnish him the key.'"

WM. HENRY SMITH.

#### FINAL MEMORIALS OF LONGFELLOW.\*

The thanks of the reading public are due to the editor and publishers of the "Final Memorials of Longfellow" for a charming addition to the existing store of literary ana and reminiscence. The impression conveyed by the word "Final," that the contents of this volume are gleanings from a field already harvested, is dispelled by the opening chapters, which prelude others of increasing interest. The editor has not compiled his work with the idea that incidents trivial in themselves are important if connected with Mr. Longfellow, and what he has selected for us possesses sufficient intrinsic merit to warrant reading for its own sake.

\* FINAL MEMORIALS OF HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW. Edited by Samuel Longfellow. BOSTON: TICKNOR & CO.

The work is chiefly made up of correspondence and journal extracts of the last fifteen years of the poet's life, to which are added letters of earlier date that have recently come to light, personal reminiscences, table talk, and an appendix indispensable to the libraries of all who possess the life of Longfellow by the editor of the volume under consideration. The table of the published writings of Mr. Longfellow, with dates of publication and full reference to reviews of each, followed by a list of his poems under the dates of their composition, which forms a part of the Appendix, will prove an invaluable aid to those who wish to study his works philosophically. The volume is liberally illustrated; the typographic details are unexceptionable; and, of the several portraits of the poet, the one etched by Mr. S. A. Schoff, which forms the frontispiece, is specially worthy of attention for its artistic merit.

Undoubtedly the feature of the memoirs which gives them their greatest general interest is the insight they afford us of the personal character of Mr. Longfellow, and his relations with many people of eminence who were his correspondents. It is no small privilege to be admitted as a third party to the confidences of the poet with such men as Agassiz, Sumner, Motley, and Hawthorne, and to receive at first hand their unglossed views of contemporaneous men and events. The reader of the Memorials is provided with ample material for estimating Mr. Longfellow's personal character and noting the complete analogy it bears to the spirit of his writings; the latter being evidently the spontaneous outgrowth and utterance of the former. His distinguishing characteristic, both as man and poet, seems to have been an all-pervading purity—a purity rendered the more attractive by his intense humanity. His poems, like his deeds, speak from the heart to the heart.

In the correspondence with his intimate friends, Messrs. G. W. Greene, J. T. Fields, and T. G. Appleton, we discover many traits not prominently displayed to those who know him by his writings alone, among which is a keen, though ever kindly, perception of the humorous. The gaucheries and unconscious impertinences of unlettered visitors and correspondents were to him an unfailing source of merriment, and he records many instances for the delectation of his friends. Thus, he writes:

"A gentleman in Maine wants me to read and criticise 'an Epic Poem,' which he has written on the creation, 'the six days work,' which, he says, is 'done up in about six hundred lines.'"

Again:

"A stranger in the West asks me to write for him two poems 'on friendship or a subject like that, for the album of a young lady who is a very partic-

ular friend.' He asks me also to 'send the bill with the articles.'"

Another gentleman, more modest in his demands, writes with business-like brevity:

"DEAR SIR: As I am getting a collection of the autographs of all honorable and worthy men, and as I think yours such, I hope you will forfeit by next mail."

We can imagine how Carlyle would have fumed under like inflictions. Mr. Longfellow seems to have endured these impunitiess, which are among the many penalties of literary eminence, with kindly patience, although he dejectedly alludes to one abnormally persistent bore as "Huge, *Hyrkanian*, hopeless!"

In his correspondence with fellow-authors, even with those whom we have been accustomed to regard as his rivals, there is an absence of the slightest trace of literary jealousy. He had no contribution to make to the "seamy side of letters." Alluding to Mr. G. W. Greene, who had recently published a successful book, he writes:

"Already I notice something like peacock's feathers growing upon my friend, and have to spread my own very wide to show that I still exist and am still respectable, though tarnished. It is a very comical sight to see two authors shut up in one room together."

The majority of the letters to Mr. Longfellow are from men whose ample means of observation enabled them to furnish us with many entertaining bits of description and characterization. Mr. T. G. Appleton, who affords proof positive that letter-writing is *not* one of the lost arts, writes from London:

"The Brownings are a happy couple,—happy in their affection and their genius. He is a fine, fresh, open nature, full of life and spring, and evidently has little of the dreamy element of Wordsworth and others. She is a little concentrated nightingale, living in a bower of curls, her heart throbbing against the bars of the world."

A letter from Mr. C. C. Felton, containing an interesting account of Jacques Jasmin, the "barber poet" of Agen, gives the following anecdote brimming with the true French sentiment:

"Jasmin and his wife are as devoted to each other after a marriage of more than thirty years, as two young lovers. 'My son,' he said, 'at the age of thirty is still unmarried; I married at nineteen, my wife being sixteen. That is the difference between Paris and Agen. Ah! this Paris life is a sad thing. He writes *je vous aime*, and rubs it out; *je vous aime*, again and rubs it out; and again *je vous aime* and rubs it out. I wrote *je vous aime*—pointing across the table to Madame Jasmin with one hand, and laying the other on his heart—'here more than thirty years ago, and here it has remained, growing brighter and brighter every day since. There is the difference between us, and between Paris and Agen.'

In a letter from Mr. A. H. Clough, dated at London, 1853, we are informed that,—

"Carlyle is building himself a sound-proof room at the top of his house, being much harassed by cocks and hens and hurdy-gurdies."

Here we can picture the Sage removed, like Teufelsdroeckh, in his turret above the Wahn-gasse, far from the hum of the hive below, completing his Frederick II.

It is pleasant to note the cordial relations that existed between Longfellow and Dickens. The latter writes, under the date of February 27, 1868:

"I hope to welcome you at Gads' Hill this next summer, and to give you the heartiest reception that the undersigned village blacksmith can strike out of his domestic anvil."

Mr. Longfellow, who was extremely fond of the theatre, was, at one time, desirous of testing the capabilities of his "New England Tragedies" for the stage,—although naturally averse to submitting them to a process of adaptation to suit the traditional notions of dramatic requirement. In a letter to Mr. J. T. Fields, he expresses a desire to submit them to Booth, and actually did consult Bandmann, as an entry in his journal states.

Bandmann writes me a nice letter about the Tragedies, but says that they are not adapted to the stage. So we will say no more about that for the present."

His partiality for the drama is strongly attested in a letter to Mr. G. W. Greene. He writes:

"I went yesterday to the theatre to see the Vicar of Wakefield, and was struck with the immense superiority of dramatic representation over narrative. Dr. Primrose and his daughters were living realities. Sophy was perfectly lovely, and it would have delighted Goldsmith's heart to have seen her. Dr. Primrose was very well done by Warren, and Olivia by Miss Clarke. It was all very pathetic, and half the audience were in tears,—the present writer among the rest."

Regarding the "immense superiority of dramatic representation over narrative," the reviewer feels that the majority of his readers will agree with him in differing from Mr. Longfellow. No dramatic representation can adequately convey the charm of Goldsmith's touching narration.

To many readers the letters from Charles Sumner, written for the most part while the writer was seeking health and rest in Europe, will prove a most interesting portion of the work.

The twilight of sorrow that pervaded the poet's declining years casts its shadow here and there over the journal and letters. There was no parade of grief in his writings—he felt that it was too sacred to be submitted to the gaze of the public. But now that he is gone, an occasional extract from journal or letter lifts for a moment the veil that hid his suffering, and we may glance within and learn a lesson of noble resignation and trust in the

future. On the morning of the tenth anniversary of his wife's funeral, he writes:

"Ah, these melancholy anniversaries! I was awoken this morning about sunrise by the singing of a bird inside my room. I looked up and saw it perched upon the window-blind. It then hopped into the room,—a little yellow bird with brown wings. After singing a while it perched upon the rounds of a chair, then flew out of the other window."

The little incident recorded is not much in itself, but taken with the context, there is a tear in every line.

A book dealing with human life, from which no elevated sentiment, no good lesson, may be drawn, is not worth the reading. In the "Final Memorials of Longfellow" one may read a sermon breathing love and charity to all men,—a sermon in which there is no Calvinism.

Of the wide-spread influence of him who is the subject of the memoirs, it is unnecessary to speak. He wrote not only to men of his own times and race, but to humanity.

"The light he leaves behind him lies  
Upon the paths of men."

EDWARD GILPIN JOHNSON.

#### POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LITERATURE FROM THE UNIVERSITIES.\*

The most noteworthy fact respecting recent American writing in the general domain of political and social science is the productive activity of men connected with our leading colleges and universities. As a part of the same striking tendency is also to be noted the new intimacy between the universities and the administration of public affairs. The economic

\* PUBLIC DEBTS: AN ESSAY IN THE SCIENCE OF FINANCE. By Henry C. Adams, Ph.D., of the University of Michigan and Cornell University. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. Herbert B. Adams, Editor. Published monthly at Baltimore, by N. Murray, publication agent of the J. H. University.

PHILADELPHIA, 1881-1887: A HISTORY OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT. By Edward P. Allinson, A.M., and Boies Penrose, A.B. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University. Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott.

POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY. Edited by the Faculty of Political Science of Columbia College. Volume I. Boston: Ginn & Co.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS. Published for Harvard University. Boston: George H. Ellis.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION. Dr. Richard T. Ely, Secretary, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

PAPERS OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION. Herbert B. Adams, Secretary. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY: A Contribution to the History of Higher Education, with Suggestions for its National Promotion. By Herbert B. Adams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History in the Johns Hopkins University. Circulars of Information of the Bureau of Education, No. 1, 1887. Washington: Government Printing Office.

study of the day has taken on an eminently scientific and practical cast, and it is receiving a deference and attention from the public that is altogether unprecedented. The consideration which Professor Francis A. Walker's books on "Wages" and "Money" received a few years ago, and the recognition of his ability as a statistician and economist which his appointment as superintendent of the last census indicated, are no longer exceptional. Professor Hadley of Yale is the author of a book on Railroads that was continually and copiously quoted as high authority in the Congressional debates on the Inter-State Commerce bill, and Mr. Hadley's reputation as a scientific student of industrial society led to his appointment as labor commissioner of Connecticut, a post which he filled for two years with rare ability. Professor Ely of the Johns Hopkins University is widely esteemed and read as an authority upon administration, taxation, and labor questions, and is now a member of the tax commission of Maryland, having recently served upon a board charged with the revision of the tax system of Baltimore. Professor E. J. James of the University of Pennsylvania is another economist whose influence is felt in public affairs. For example, his monograph on "The Relation of the Modern Municipality to the Gas Supply" undoubtedly prevented the sale to a private corporation of the Philadelphia gas works. Professor Thompson of Pennsylvania from one standpoint, and Professor Taussig of Harvard from another, are writers whose investigations and arguments have recognition and influence at Washington in the discussion of the tariff question. The career of ex-President Andrew D. White of Cornell University is a conspicuous illustration of the new intimacy between university work in political science and the administration of public affairs. Mr. Woodrow Wilson, who is the ablest of recent writers upon our constitutional machinery, is a college professor; and so, also, is Mr. Alexander Johnston. Professor Laughlin of Harvard, who has written the history of bimetallism in the United States, has obtained rank as an authority on currency questions. Professor Bolles of the University of Pennsylvania is the author of an extended financial history of the United States, the editor of "The Bankers' Magazine," and a writer of standing and influence with practical financiers. This list is far from complete, but it suffices to indicate the strength of a most significant tendency.

The latest extended contribution to political science which comes from a university professor's study is a treatise on "Public Debts," by Dr. Henry C. Adams of Cornell and Michigan. It may properly be characterized as the most important systematic work in the science of finance that has been accomplished by an

American; and in its particular field of inquiry no foreign writer has produced anything so thorough and valuable. Part I. of the volume treats of "Public Borrowing as a Financial Policy." Its chapters discuss modern public expenditure, the money markets and the commercial democracy which make public loans possible, and the influence of modern nationalism and of socialistic tendencies in increasing the expenditure and indebtedness of nations; the political, social and industrial tendencies of public debts are considered separately and with great practical and philosophical insight; and, finally, the emergencies and objects which justify a state in negotiating loans are analyzed and discussed. Part II., entitled "National Deficit Financiering," is chiefly devoted to the financial conduct of a war and the subsequent management and reduction of the debt which remains as a legacy of war. Its discussions and criticisms of our American war financing are exceedingly instructive. Part III. treats of "Local Deficit Financiering," and is chiefly devoted to a consideration of the finances of American states and cities. A technical review of this admirable volume need not be undertaken here. Suffice it to say that its great merit will be most fully recognized by those best versed in the theory and practice of finance. It is eminently characteristic of Dr. Adams as a thinker and analyst, that he discovers underlying principles and defines broad rules of action. His discussion of each part of his subject is to a satisfactory purpose; and the results are clearly and confidently, though not dogmatically, summarized at the conclusion of every chapter. The production of such books as this must give our universities a most decided influence in shaping the policies of government.

The "Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science" are now in the midst of their fifth annual series, and remain under the successful editorship of Professor Herbert B. Adams, who was their originator. It is not too much to say that this series of publications has done more than anything else to give impulse to the investigation, under American college and university auspices, of our past and present institutional and economic life. From the impetus which must be ascribed to these publications has sprung the American Historical and the American Economic associations; and quarterly journals of political science have been established at two other universities, also as a traceable consequence. The stimulus to research and monographic publication which American students of history and political science unquestionably owe to Dr. H. B. Adams, has produced in four years a net result of extraordinary variety and permanent

value. The four completed series of the Johns Hopkins studies contain about fifty distinct monographs, treating principally of the development of American institutions. The series of 1886 is bound in a handsome volume under the title "Municipal Government and Land Tenure." The monographs for the current year are studies of government in leading American cities—Philadelphia, Boston, St. Louis, Baltimore, Chicago, San Francisco, New Orleans, and New York. The numbers which have appeared are of excellent quality.

The political science laboratory at Baltimore has produced a number of studies sufficiently extended and important to justify publication as distinct volumes. Until recently these have found their way to the public through the regular publishing houses; but the university has now undertaken a series of "extra volumes," issued in a style uniform with the bound volumes of the shorter "studies." THE DIAL has heretofore noticed the first of these extra volumes—Dr. Levermore's "The Republic of New Haven, a History of Municipal Evolution." The second is a fitting companion. It is entitled "Philadelphia, 1681-1887, a History of Municipal Development," and is a product of the joint authorship of Messrs. Edward P. Allinson and Boies Penrose, both of the Philadelphia bar. What we may term the biographical study of particular municipal corporations is of great advantage to those who would grasp the problems of modern city government and aid in the establishment of salutary reforms. Philadelphia's experiences have been perhaps more varied, more typical, and more instructive, than those of any other American city corporation; and the present volume recites those experiences with an intelligent appreciation of their bearing upon the general problems of city government in the United States. The book is especially timely and acceptable, since it reviews all the circumstances which led to the new Philadelphia charter of 1885 and describes the government as reconstructed and now in operation under that charter, instituting comparisons with the framework of other city constitutions, especially those of Brooklyn, New York, and Boston.

The first completed volume of the "Political Science Quarterly" is alike creditable to Columbia College and to American scholarship. This substantial periodical is "a review devoted to the historical, statistical and comparative study of politics, economics, and public law," and is edited by the faculty of political science of Columbia College. Mere speculation and show of learning are conspicuously absent from its pages, which have an admirable freshness and virility that is entirely compatible with scholarly excellence. The table of contents shows that nearly every

article in the volume deals with current and practical problems. For example, take the following titles: "The Collection of Duties in the United States," "American Labor Statistics," "Legislative Inquests," "The West-African Conference at Berlin," "Ambiguous Citizenship," "The Legal Tender Question," "The Recent Constitutional Crisis in Norway," "Bimetallism in the United States," "The Taxation of Labor," "The Conflict of East and West in Egypt," "The Future of Banking in the United States," "The Executive and the Courts." These mature and weighty discussions further illustrate the new trend of university thought towards public affairs. As a part of the whole movement, it should be observed, too, that strong writers outside of the immediate academic circles are rallying around the universities as the newly-recognized centres of our best political study and expression, and are contributing to the university publications. The reviews of American and foreign publications are a valuable feature of the "Political Science Quarterly." Its editors are Messrs. John W. Burgess, Archibald Alexander, Richmond Mayo Smith, Edmund Munroe Smith, Frank J. Goodnow, George H. Baker, and Edwin R. A. Seligman, all of Columbia College.

Although only three of the four numbers which will comprise the first volume have appeared, it is not too early to characterize the "Quarterly Journal of Economics" as having the same qualities of scholarly merit and the same pre-eminently practical tone which we have noted in the Columbia review. This new journal is published "for Harvard University," and is presumably edited by Professors Dunbar, Laughlin, and Taussig. Each number has three leading papers. To show the prominence given to the discussion of current affairs, let us cite the five leading articles (in the first two numbers) which follow Professor Dunbar's opening essay on the state of political economy. They are on the following topics: "Private Monopolies and Public Rights," "Silver before Congress in 1886," "An Historical Sketch of the Knights of Labor," "The Disposition of our Public Lands," and "The Southwestern Strike of 1886," the writers being, respectively, Arthur T. Hadley, S. Dana Horton, Carroll D. Wright, Albert Bushnell Hart, and F. W. Taussig. Following the leading articles, each number has a department of "Notes and Memoranda," and a classified list of the economic publications of the quarter, including meritorious works in the English, French, German, or Italian language. The periodical compares creditably with the leading economic journals of Germany and France.

The publications of the American Economic Association, now in their second year, have met with great favor. Monographs are issued

bi-monthly. The earlier of the numbers comprising the first volume have been noticed in *THE DIAL*. The sixth number is by Dr. Henry C. Adams, and is on "The Relation of the State to Industrial Action." The author observes that "*laissez faire*" is not and no longer is held to be a scientific principle, but that it is merely a maxim of conservatism. It is his purpose to discover certain broad and permanent principles which should be observed in the legislation that deals with industrial society. He finds, first, that the State may so govern as to determine the plane of competitive action and prevent the degradation of the many through the unscrupulous conduct of the few. Second, he affirms that the State may realize for society the benefits of monopoly. Industries are classified according as they are subject to the law of "constant returns," to that of "diminishing returns," or to that of "increasing returns." "The first two classes are adequately controlled by competitive action; the third class, on the other hand, requires the superior control of state power," since its tendency is monopolistic. Finally, the thesis is defended that "social harmony may be restored by extending the duties of the State." The essay is an original and valuable contribution to economic thought.

Akin to the Economic Association is the American Historical Association. Both owe their origin to the new university interest in the investigation, under modern methods and in the scientific spirit, of historical, political, and economic subjects; and they have many members in common. Dr. H. B. Adams of the Johns Hopkins University has from the outset been the secretary and executive officer of the Historical Association; while Dr. R. T. Ely of the same University occupies the corresponding post in the other society. Dr. W. F. Poole of Chicago is the new president of the Historical Association, elected at the annual meeting in May,—his two predecessors having been Mr. Justin Winsor of Harvard and Hon. Andrew D. White of Cornell. These names, of high honor among historical students, attest the worthy quality of the publications which are issued stately by the Society. The first volume contains reports, by Dr. Herbert B. Adams, of the first and second annual meetings; a paper by the Hon. A. D. White, on historical studies; an extended study of educational land-grants in the states of the original Northwestern Territory, by Dr. George W. Knight; an essay on the Louisiana Purchase, by Bishop Robertson of Missouri; and a historical examination of the appointing power of the President, by Lucy M. Salmon.

Dr. Herbert B. Adams's recent monograph, "The College of William and Mary," is well characterized in its sub-title as "a contribution to the history of higher education,

with suggestions for its national promotion." The venerable College of William and Mary, now without a student, played an important part in the earlier history of Virginia, and it maintained a "close connection between education and good citizenship," that made it "a seminary of statesmen." The story of Washington's and Jefferson's connection with this college, their zeal for education, and especially their views of the relation of the higher education to the service of the State, is exceedingly instructive as told by Dr. Adams. But the most noteworthy chapters of the monograph are those which contain the author's suggestions. Dr. Adams advocates the plan of a civil academy in Washington, by means of which "the government might easily secure for the civil service what West Point and Annapolis have so long provided for the army and navy, viz., well-trained men for administrative positions requiring expert service." It is proposed that one student of the grade of bachelor of arts shall be appointed upon competitive examination from each congressional district, "to enjoy government tuition in Washington for two years in a civil academy, with an allowance of \$600 a year for necessary expenses, as is now done for cadets at West Point and Annapolis." We cannot here follow the details of the idea as they are unfolded by Professor Adams, but we may further quote that "the students should be instructed in physical, historical and economic geography; in political, constitutional, and diplomatic history; in the modern languages; and in all branches of political science, including political economy, statistics, forestry, administration, international law, comparative methods of legislation, and comparative politics." Half a dozen years ago it would have been impossible to get serious consideration for such a plan. Yet it is through the medium of a government document that the plan is now outlined, and its general discussion as a practical proposal has already begun. There could hardly be a more significant mark of the new influence in American affairs that the university study of political science is gaining.

ALBERT SHAW.

#### ENGLAND IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.\*

At the close of chapter twenty-two, in the sixth volume of his "History of England in the Eighteenth Century," having reached the opening of the great war with France—which did not really end until the victory at Waterloo relieved Europe of all fears from the

ambitious genius of Napoleon,—Mr. Lecky writes as follows:

"The outbreak of the war of 1793, closing the peaceful period of the ministry of Pitt, forms an appropriate termination for the history of England in the eighteenth century, though it will be necessary for the completion of my narrative to carry that portion of my work which relates to Ireland as far as the legislative union of 1801."

Inasmuch as volume six brings the history of Ireland only to the year 1793, we may confidently expect that, if allowed to complete his history on the plan he lays out for himself, our author will have at least one more volume to add to the two now published; although that final instalment will be entirely confined to the history of Ireland.

Volumes V. and VI. cover the period from the fall of the Coalition Ministry and the complete victory of Pitt in 1784, to the breaking out of war with France in 1793,—a term much shorter than that covered by the previous instalments of the work. These volumes are in nowise inferior to the earlier ones, in the skill displayed by the historian in the use of his materials, or in the clearness and beauty with which he tells his story. The first two chapters, however, cannot be expected to interest the American reader so deeply as those which preceded them and told the story of a people who were then one with ourselves. The analyses of character, and the impartial estimates of the great actors in this part of the drama of English history, are as brilliant and as carefully drawn as ever. Especially is this to be noted in the case of the younger Pitt, whose administration, beginning with the year 1784, extended over and beyond the whole series of years covered by the present instalment of the history. The chapters thus form no inadequate biography of the great statesman who reigned supreme in Parliament for the whole period, supported by a majority which rendered all opposition insignificant if not contemptible.

But matters of internal government, finance, and commerce, and even the general course of foreign relations in a time of profound peace, can hardly be made as entertaining to the general reader, though they may be as instructive to the student, as the work which occupies the statesmen and generals of a country involved in war with other nations. Hence the first two chapters of the present volumes are less attractive than those which succeed them and tell of the inception of the great social and political revolution in France, which involved in ruin the ancient monarchy of that country, stripped a king of his power and brought him to the scaffold, and ended in establishing in France the military despotism of Bonaparte and involving all Europe in war. But even in these first chapters, the sections

\* A HISTORY OF ENGLAND IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. By W. E. H. LECKY. Vols. V. and VI. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

devoted to the Regency,—which became a matter of absorbing importance to England when George the Third had his first attack of madness, in October, 1788,—are deeply interesting, as affording an example of the way in which the Anglo-Saxon ever seeks to settle an unexpected or extraordinary crisis in his constitutional government,—such as that which England was called upon to meet and provide for in 1688, or that which the people of this country had to solve after the Presidential election of 1876. The general sketch of European politics during the latter part of the eighteenth century, before the troubles in France began, is clear and satisfactory; as is also the narrative of the schemes of the various continental monarchs and the almost complete fruitlessness and failure of the plots and counterplots entered into for the purpose of obtaining some increase of territory,—wholly inadequate, as it now seems, to compensate for the losses in men and money, which the resulting wars entailed. The reader gets from these pages a very fair idea of the issues of that time, as well as of the chief actors upon the stage of Europe; such as Catherine of Russia, Gustavus III. of Sweden, Joseph II. of Austria, and many others.

Chapters twenty, twenty-one and twenty-two are devoted to the French Revolution, its causes and progress, its effects on English politics, and the relations existing during its early stages between England and France. Having stated the profound influence upon English history which the Revolution exercised in the latter years of the eighteenth century, Mr. Lecky proceeds to consider its literary antecedents, as shown by the great change in spirit which may be detected in French literature, and especially in the works of Voltaire and his followers, ending in the total alienation of the French intellect from Christianity. He draws the conclusion that this influence, though real, has been greatly exaggerated, and that the first signs of a political opposition are not to be found in the writings of the philosophers, but in those conflicts between the court and the parliaments which form so large a part of French history during the first seventy years of the century. He then passes to a consideration of these conflicts, and of the character of the government of France; and closes chapter twenty with an extended sketch of the reign of Louis XVI. down to the day of the capture of the Bastile. He concludes this subject as follows:

"To me, at least, it appears that the French Revolution, though undoubtedly prepared by causes which had been in operation for centuries, might, till within a very few years of the catastrophe, have been with no great difficulty averted.

A profound change in the character of the government and institutions of France had indeed become inevitable, but such a change need not have been a revolution. . . . In spite of the wars and debts of Louis XIV., in spite of the vices and incapacity of the Regency and of Louis XV., in spite of much class selfishness and a great subversion of ancient opinions, the position of the French monarchy on the accession of Louis XVI. was far from desperate. If a Henry IV. or a Frederick the Great had then mounted the throne, or if Louis XVI. had found for his minister a Richelieu or a Pitt, a Cavour or a Bismarck, France would never have drifted into anarchy."

The author traces, in a very interesting way, the first effects of the Revolution on English politics, and continues with an account of its progress and the complications in Europe which led to war. He describes with great fulness the relations between France and England arising from the Revolution and the European war on which France had entered, the negotiations between the two countries, and the manifest determination of the English government to remain neutral, if this was possible without loss of honor or without violating obligations to which England was irrevocably pledged. He treats with considerable minuteness the circumstances of the final rupture between the two nations, which in 1793 closed the history of the century, so far as concerned England, by introducing into her politics a new era which belongs rather to the nineteenth than to the eighteenth century.

A very readable chapter is devoted to the subjects of dress, manners, popular amusements, art, education, agriculture and manufactures in England during the latter part of the eighteenth century; the rise of that vast commerce which England now holds so firmly; the changes made by the inventions in spinning, weaving, and the application of steam to the development of the factory system, with the horrors of its system of white slavery; the penal code, and the prevalence of crime; and, lastly, the slave-trade and the agitation to abolish the infamous system on which it depended. This chapter is of all those now published the most interesting and instructive, and will of itself amply repay one for the time spent in reading the two volumes. In fact, it is in chapters of this nature that Mr. Lecky shows himself at his best. It is doubtful if there is any other work that gives so good a general picture of the country whose history he is telling, in its social and industrial aspects, in the every-day life and work of its people, and in the influence of its institutions.

In this day, when the troubles of Ireland and the problems of home-rule are occupying so much of the attention of all men in this country as well as in England, it is hardly too much to say that nine-tenths of those who

take up Mr. Lecky's new volumes will turn with most eagerness and expectation to the chapters which he has devoted to that period of Irish history when Ireland had a parliament of her own, well-nigh independent, on all matters of domestic government, of the parliament which sat in London. The history of Ireland is brought down to the year 1793; and the author shows, with much clearness and by many citations, the difficulties and obstacles encountered, under the constitution of 1782, by the various viceroys of the island and by the statesmen who were active and prominent there during this period. He shows also the success which attended the government of Ireland by its own legislature, the general increase of prosperity in the country, and the various reforms which were carried out. His picture of the condition of Ireland in the earlier years of its independent parliament, he admits, "differs widely from the impression which is very general in England."

"The true history of the Irish Parliament is to be found in the excellent reports of its debates; in the Irish Statute Book, which contains the results of its work; in the volumes of those contemporary writers who have most fully examined the industrial conditions of Ireland under its rule. . . . The parliamentary system of the eighteenth century might be represented in very different lights by its enemies and by its friends. Its enemies would describe it as essentially government carried on through the instrumentality of a corrupt oligarchy. . . . Its friends would describe it as essentially the government of Ireland by the gentlemen of Ireland and especially by its landlord class. Neither representation would be altogether true, but each contains a large measure of truth.

The Irish Parliament was a body consisting very largely of independent country gentlemen, who, on nearly all questions affecting the economical and industrial development of the country, had a powerful if not a decisive influence. The lines of party were but faintly drawn. Most questions were settled by mutual compromise or general concurrence, and it was in reality only in a small class of political questions that the corrupt power of government seems to have been strained.

Most of the work done was of that practical and unobtrusive character which leaves no trace in history, and, except during the conflict on the Regency question, the parliamentary machine moved on with very little friction or disturbance."

Mr. Lecky considers that the merits or demerits, the failure or the success, of the old Irish Parliament has no real bearing on modern schemes for reconstructing the government of Ireland, such as are now agitating the public mind in that island and in Great Britain; and that the history of Ireland during the period covered is only interesting in the most general way, if at all, as showing the capacity of the Irish for home-rule.

W. ELIOT FURNESS.

#### RECENT FICTION.\*

In writing the romance of "Saracinesca," Mr. Crawford seems to have set out to produce his *magnum opus*. The conception of the work is larger than that of any of its predecessors, the characterization is in every way firmer, and there is a substantial background furnished by the political and social condition of Rome during the past score of years, a background which is filled in from the writer's knowledge at first-hand, the subject being one with which he is thoroughly familiar. The volume now published, substantial as it is, appears to be but the first portion of a narrative which has great possibilities of extension. "The first act," Mr. Crawford calls it, and if the scale is preserved there are many more "acts" to come, for he announces his intention of following the fortunes of the Saracinesca through a period of twenty years, while the events of the volume before us cover but one of these years. The stirring events of 1866 and 1870 will afford good material for the volumes to come, and Mr. Crawford will handle this material skilfully, although, we fear, in a spirit more than justifiably sympathetic with the politic Cavour and the despotic Pius IX. The only great historical figure introduced into the present volume is that of the unscrupulous Antonelli, and it is outlined with much care. On the whole, Mr. Crawford's novel is the best that the season has produced.

"The Jesuit's Ring," by Mr. A. A. Hayes, blends happily the romance of early American

\* SARACINESCA. By F. Marion Crawford. New York: Macmillan & Co.

THE JESUIT'S RING. A Romance of Mount Desert. By Augustus Allen Hayes. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

MISS BATTLE'S ROMANCE. A Story of To-day. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

ZURY: THE MEANEST MAN IN SPRING COUNTY. By Joseph Kirkland. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE FEUD OF OAKFIELD CREEK. A Novel of California Life. By Josiah Royce. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE STORY OF A NEW YORK HOUSE. By H. C. Bunner. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

THE WOODLANDERS. A Novel. By Thomas Hardy. New York: Harper & Brothers.

SABINA ZEMRA. A Novel. By William Black. New York: Harper & Brothers.

THE BRIDE OF THE NILE. By Georg Ebers. In two volumes. From the German, by Clara Bell. New York: William S. Gottsberger.

BALDINE, AND OTHER TALES. By Carl Erdmann Edler. Translated from the German by the Earl of Lytton. New York: Harper & Brothers.

THE BUCHHOLZ FAMILY. Second Part. By Julius Stinde. Translated by L. Dora Schmitz. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

SIGRID: AN ICELAND LOVE STORY. By Jon Thortharson Thoroddsen. Translated from the Danish by C. Chrest. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

THE STARTLING EXPLOITS OF DR. J. B. QUIÈRE. From the French of Paul Célie by Mrs. Casiel Hoey and Mr. John Lillie. New York: Harper & Brothers.

THE RUSTY LINCHPIN AND LUBOFF ARCHIPOVNA. After the Russian of Mme. Kokhanovsky. By M. M. S. and J. L. E. Boston: D. Lothrop Co.

settlement with the matter-of-fact conditions of modern life. The central incident of the story is the loss of a ring upon Mount Desert Island by a Jesuit missionary of the seventeenth century, and the finding of this ring by a nineteenth century American. A prologue tells of the founding of the mission of Saint Sauveur upon the island in 1613. The subsequent portion of the work presents a picture of the fashionable summer resort of the present day. The story is in the main a modern society novel, but an exceptionally clever one; it is redeemed from the utter barrenness of most such novels by the romantic and ideal element provided by the ring episode. The author displays the ungodly haste generally exhibited by modern novelists to set two rather commonplace young people at their wits' ends for love of one another, but he is a good observer, both of society and landscape, and something of a humorist besides, so that his story is a very attractive one, and set forth with excellent taste.

"Miss Bayle's Romance" is an account of the very extraordinary sayings and doings of a Chicago girl in Europe. When Miss Bayle goes to Europe she is engaged to a certain Tom Bates, who is described as a "clerk in a dry goods store and a member of the Chicago Literary Club." Tom, however, is soon abandoned for Lord Plowden Eton, son of the Duke of Windsor, and described as "replete with good old English prejudices." After the marriage, Miss Bayle writes of her husband to Sadie, her bosom friend in Chicago, after this fashion: "He is going into politics and I have promised to teach him to run English politics on Western principles. He is a first-class speaker, quite as good as Long John Wentworth, whom I thought the finest I ever heard." This will do very well as illustrative of Miss Bayle's use of language, but the trouble is that it is also a very fair specimen of the writer's own style; which is equivalent to saying that the book is altogether beneath criticism. Such a combination, indeed, of bad writing, crude dialogue, and vulgar sentiment, is not often found between the covers of one book. When we add to these faults the absolute shapelessness of the whole story and the ill-bred personalities in which it abounds, we have a showing which should hardly encourage a reader to waste his time in its perusal.

A man who is admittedly and avowedly "mean" is a sort of hero for whom fiction of the romantic type could find no place, unless is were to use him as a foil to some noble and disinterested character. In taking "Zury, the Meanest Man in Spring County" for his hero, it is evident that Mr. Kirkland has eschewed romanticism and all its ways. An examination of the novel, extended beyond its title, shows the author to be an uncompromising

realist, and, farther, shows him to be closely in sympathy with the most remarkable English writer of realistic novels, Mr. Thomas Hardy. The method and the spirit of Hardy are there, although the scene is so widely different. Mr. Kirkland's rustics are Illinois farmers, and they speak the language of their section, a speech as unabashed when set down in cold print as it is when heard in the farmhouse or the country "store." The success of Mr. Kirkland's narrative may be judged from the fact that its five hundred and more pages, written for the most part in a dialect as divergent from orthodox English as Scotch or Yorkshire, do not become wearisome to the reader. Two things serve to tide the story over the danger of dulness: first, the interest which it derives from the fact of its being based upon familiar and faithful observation of the scenes and people which it deals with; and, second, the quiet humor which enlivens it at many points. As for Zury himself, while he is doubtless mean enough to justify the title in which he himself glories, his meanness is not underhanded; it is open and avowed, and takes no one by surprise. And his character comes at last to be so wrought upon by the emotion of paternity, that his meanness gives way, after a desperate struggle, to the latent better impulses of his nature; and the reader is led to "first endure, then pity, then embrace," figuratively, the old fellow. The chief criticism to be made upon the book is that the central incident, which is responsible for Zury's change of heart, is so obscurely stated that it takes a very careful reader to realize its import as early as he should to appreciate what follows, and it would be quite possible for a reader not so careful to read the story through to the end and miss the point of it altogether. The subject was a delicate one to deal with, but a little less hesitancy to speak plainly on the author's part would have made an artistic improvement. There are one or two points to be noted in the way of minor criticism. There is at times rather more effort on the author's part to be instructive than consists with good novel-writing. Then there is an occasional intrusion of the writer with some such statement of one of his characters, as "She remembers this to the present day," which mars the artistic effect. Then Mr. Kirkland's botany is a trifle inaccurate. He speaks in one place of "lady-slippers and golden-rods" as in bloom at the same time, and in another makes the flowering of the blue gentian and the tiger lily similarly contiguous, both of which coincidences are highly improbable, if not altogether impossible.

"How long I am about it!" is the exclamation of one of the characters in "The Feud of Oakfield Creek," engaged at the moment in a little explanation. The remark is one which

the author must have made himself many times during the composition of the work, for so simple a story has rarely been told at so tedious a length. Prof. Royce can hardly be said to have the qualifications necessary to the successful novelist. He is unbearably prolix, leaving nothing to be inferred by the intelligence of the reader, nor has he anything of the dramatic ability which many of his scenes demand for their proper presentation. This leaves little to be said for the novel before us. It is gracefully written, what small amount of local coloring it has is effectively applied, and it contains an occasional page delightful for its own sake. We cannot refrain from quotation of the following gem—the reflections of a California millionaire on the subject of literature.

"I've read in my day bushels of poems as full of damned nonsense as these are. That's just literature, you see. A fellow reels off that sort of thing by the mile, when he has the hang of it, just to show what he can do. He doesn't mean a word of it. Everybody knows that any great poet gets famous by telling lies in a sort of way that makes you like to take note of 'em, as it were. It's how he earns his living, you perceive, namely, by pretending to be pious, or drunk, or in love with another man's wife, or excited any way, and then raising an infernal row over it all. I've known poets before, sir, in my life, men that have visited with me from the East, or that have gone hunting with me, or once or twice that have been in business near me, and been my friends for years. They're, like enough, rather no-account men, if you choose, but they're all as mild as skim-milk,—except, to be sure, Alf Escott. Mostly they don't know enough to be bad, sir. They're too childish-minded, as it were. As for what they say, I tell you, that's just literature,—nothing more in God's world!"

Mr. Bunner's stories have the charm of unfailing taste and delicate literary art. "The Story of a New York House" is a sketch of the fortunes of an old New York family during three generations, with the growth of the great city for a background. The life of by-gone days is outlined with a faithful hand, and the writer seems to love thus to linger in the city's past. The story is hardly more than a trifle, but it is an exquisite one, and worth more than many a novel of more substance and pretension.

"The Woodlanders" ought to be a tragedy, but fails from lack of seriousness. The story of the simple-hearted, loving Giles Winterbourne is tragic enough when taken by itself, but the accessories are not in keeping, and the impression of the whole is disagreeable. Grace Medbury is not worthy of the depth of affection which leads him to sacrifice his life for her, and the author can hardly be exculpated from a touch of wantonness in the portrayal of his sufferings. They are not adequately accounted for by the conditions of the narrative. Otherwise, the book has all the ingenuity, the

subtle observation, and the grim realism with which the readers of Hardy are familiar. Probably no woodlanders ever talked as these are made to, but what they say is amusing enough, and the background of it all is the work of a master. The story reminds us, more than most of the author's work, of the chief American exponent of realism in fiction, and this is not high praise. Of course, large allowances have to be made for differences of scene, but the effect is not greatly dissimilar. The final reconciliation of Grace and her husband, after the lover of each has been conveniently dispatched, is about as commonplace an ending as a story often has, without saying anything of its entire neglect of the demands of art. To say that people act thus in real life does not justify their so acting in the novel, at least upon the principles of any higher school of fiction than the photographic one.

Mr. Black's new novel is a love-story marred by an undue amount of horse-talk. The language of yachting has given place to that of the turf, and the change is not for the better. The first chapters of the book are devoted mainly to a description of the dreadful state of mind of a young artist who is in love with Sabina; the bulk of what follows is concerned with the brutal treatment of Sabina by the jockey whom she has the bad taste to prefer to the artist and to marry. At the end, the jockey obligingly commits suicide, and Sabina marries the artist, to the satisfaction of all concerned. That part of the story which is not horse-talk is told in Mr. Black's charming style; but the work cannot, as a whole, be classed with his successes.

The taste for translations of foreign fiction seems to be on the increase. The recent popularity of the Russian novelists is but one of many indications of this fact. Every season brings us a considerable number of translations from various languages, very poor translations as a rule, but, such as they are, in much demand, and the appetite for them grows apace with what it feeds on. The most important of the translations now before us is probably that of "The Bride of the Nile," the latest work of the industrious Prof. Ebers. The date of the work is placed in the middle of the seventh century of our era, the period immediately following the conquest of Egypt by the rapidly growing power of Islam. The Moslem government of Egypt then, and the antagonism between the Jacobite and Melchite sects of the Christian population of the province, form the historical framework of what is, in the main, a domestic romance, no historical events of any great magnitude being woven into its fabric. The present work is, on the whole, distinctly inferior to most of its predecessors. It must be admitted that Prof. Ebers has fallen into that bottomless abyss of

prolixity which lies in the path of all successful novelists, and which few of them have the resolution to shun. The over-pronounced erudition of his earlier works has given way to an overabundant resort to the commonplace for the purpose of expanding his productions to marketable size. The contents of these two volumes might easily have been condensed into one, and even that would have been rather too tenuous to sustain the interest at all points. A few spirited chapters alone partly redeem the work from its many lapses into aimlessness and triviality.

The Earl of Lytton has done readers a real service in translating the three stories which form the volume entitled "Baldine and Other Tales." They are from the German of Edler, a writer comparatively unknown abroad, but occupying a high place in the esteem of his countrymen, and the author of a considerable number of romances. Of the accuracy of the translation we cannot speak, not having the original at hand, but Lord Lytton's introductory sketch contains so many blunders that one is not predisposed to place much confidence in his work as a translator. In this sketch we find among other mistakes, "Ekkerhard" for "Ekkehard," "Kleinstättig" for "Kleinstädtisch," "Seckingen" for "Säckingen," "Weltschmertz" (repeated) for "Weltschmerz," and, most extraordinary of all, a reference to Freytag's "Sollen und Haben"! This sketch contains also two poetical quotations, one from "Samson Agonistes," one from the sonnet of Keats on Chapman's Homer; and both are misquoted. Judging from these indications, it would hardly be safe to depend upon the accuracy of the translation itself, but, taking the stories as we find them, they are very charming, and a marked degree of genius shines through Lord Lytton's version of them. Edler's work is essentially poetic in its conception, and he has close affinities with the romantic writers of the last generation. But there is a concreteness and a definiteness to the human interest embodied in his tales which distinguishes them from such productions as the romances of Tieck and Hoffman. Their burden is strongly pathetic, but the pathos is not wholly unrelieved. The author, in his translator's phrase "reconciles our imagination to the real sorrowfulness of the world by revealing to it the ideal loveliness of sorrow."

A second instalment of "The Buchholz Family," the first part of which was reviewed in THE DIAL for last December, has just been published, the translation being by the same hand. It is quite as delightful as the first, and its popularity in Germany is evidenced by the fact that this translation is from the forty-second edition of the original. Its principal theme may be said to be *Frau Buchholz*

considered as a mother-in-law, although there are many subsidiary episodes. The sketches in this volume still deal with Berlin life from the bourgeois standpoint, and show the same keen and humorous observation which were distinctive of the former one. The translation is a little careless, but in the main, reproductive of the spirit of the original. We hope that it will be speedily followed by "Die Buchholzen in Italien," published in the original some time ago.

"Sigrid" is the simplest sort of a story, but interesting for its faithful portraiture of peasant life in Iceland. It is the work of Jon Thortharson Thoroddsen, a popular Icelandic poet, who died in 1868. The present translation has two marked defects. In the first place, it is made at second-hand, being taken through the Danish, a method which is always to be deprecated. In the second place, the translator has not been sufficiently careful to avoid the use of English words of Latin derivation. To do this entirely is, of course, utterly impossible, but care should be taken to restrict their use as much as possible. Much of the spirit and the charm of Scandinavian literature depends upon its being written in a purely Teutonic form of speech, and this is particularly true of that literature which deals either with the homely aspects of life, or with the material offered by the old history and mythology of the northern peoples.

"The Startling Exploits of Dr. J. B. Quiès" is a story of burlesque adventure from the French of M. Paul Célière. It may be described as a weak imitation of Daudet's immortal "Tartarin." Dr. Quiès is a harmless and quiet-loving Frenchman of Saint-Pignon les Girouettes who becomes a famous traveller greatly against his will, very much as Tartarin becomes a famous Alpinist in spite of his inclination to stay at home and bask in the sunshine of his fame as a lion-hunter. By an unheard-of series of accidents, Dr. Quiès is snatched away from his home, gets carried to Algiers, and thence through the desert to Khartoum. Reaching home after all these terrible experiences, he finds himself again impelled forth in the direction of the Danubian principalities, and, to crown his adventure, carried thence to parts unknown by a balloon. He reaches home again after the most extensive wanderings, just in time to witness the unveiling of the statue erected by his fellow-townsmen to his late lamented self. The story is mildly amusing and contains a great number of spirited illustrations.

The interest in Russian fiction is still being "exploited" by our literary workers, and now that the greater writers, from Gogol to Tolstoi, have been presented to us, it is but natural for a long train of the lesser ones to follow. In this train comes Madame Kakhanovsky

with two short and simple stories called "The Rusty Linchpin" and "Luboff Archipovna." They picture the uneventful life of the provinces with what seems to be a delicate and a faithful touch. They bring us very close to that strange civilization which has lately become so fascinating to western readers, and help us to realize how truly the aims and the emotions of common life are the same under all garbs and in all lands. The translation reads smoothly, and seems to have been made with some care. It has, however, the appearance of a greater freedom than is permitted to work of this description.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

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BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

THE History Company of San Francisco have issued the third volume of Mr. H. H. Bancroft's "Central America," and this section of his "Pacific Coast Histories" is now complete. The two preceding volumes brought the history of this little-known region down to 1800; and the volume at hand continues it to the present year. These eighty-seven years have been, perhaps, the most eventful of the country's career. With the dawn of the century the Central American states threw off the Spanish yoke. Independence was obtained by simple declaration, and without the strife and bloodshed that marked the emancipation of other Spanish-American colonies. On gaining their freedom, the five little states—Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala,—instead of joining their fortunes and thereby forming a powerful nation, struck out each for itself. The result has been constant dissension and dispute among them. In 1834 an effort was made to unite the countries, and in 1825 a constitution, modelled after our own, was sworn to and ratified; but after fifteen stormy years this confederation was broken up. Attempts at reunion were made in 1852, in 1871-6, and in 1885; but every such experiment has failed, and from 1840 the history of Central America is that of five separate republics. The first ten chapters of Mr. Bancroft's book describe the course of events to the downfall of the union. Then follow five chapters giving each the history of a single state for about twenty years more. Two chapters give an elaborate account of the schemes and motives of Walker in his filibustering expedition in Nicaragua. Very interesting descriptions are given of the character and customs of the Central American peoples, their intellectual advancement and industrial progress. One chapter is devoted to the judicial and military systems as they now stand, and another to the commerce and finance of the states. The important subject of interoceanic communication receives careful attention; and a valuable summary of the many schemes projected for cutting across the isthmus, by railway or canal, is given at the close of the volume, which is one of the best thus far issued in Mr. Bancroft's series.

It is not easy to reach a true understanding of the institutions of Russia. To judge them justly, there

must be a clear conception of the character of the people, which, oriental in its derivation, differs radically from that of western nations, and consequently demands different conditions and modes of development. Next to their racial peculiarities it is necessary to consider their religious nature, which, by its singular devotion and fanaticism, has a predominant influence over their lives and in no small degree has affected the policy of their government. The civil histories of Russia do not treat this important factor in the national disposition and destiny with the fulness it deserves. Their scope does not admit of it. Much of this omission is supplied by Mr. Heard's able work on "The Russian Church and Russian Dissent" (Harper). The title has an austere sound which may repel, but the substance of the book is as pleasing as any of the lighter forms of narrative. The author has gained the qualifications for a successful exposition of his topic from a long residence among Russians, from official service for the government, and from a study of the best authorities in the literature of different nations most closely related to Russia. As it is impossible to separate the Russian state from the Russian church, Mr. Heard gives an outline of its history since the introduction of Christianity within its domain in the ninth century; and many events in the process of its growth are set in a clearer light. The reader of this book is better able to understand the religious element which entered into the controversy over Poland and led to its partition and final absorption, and which impels the Tsar, as defender of the orthodox faith, to interfere when the Sultan oppresses those of his subjects who claim its protection. The deeper insight gained in these cases extends over the centuries of Russia's Christian experience, disclosing the guiding motives in much that has been mysterious and misinterpreted in her political conduct.

MR. J. B. BOUTON's journey "Roundabout to Moscow" (Appleton) did not depart from the routes commonly followed by travellers in search of points of signal interest within the boundaries of Europe. It ran from Paris to Nice, Monaco, the chief Italian cities, through the Alpine region, a part of Austria and Germany to St. Petersburg and Moscow, and thence back to Amsterdam by way of Sweden and Norway. Every step was on territory that has been described innumerable times; and yet, as we go over it again with Mr. Bouton, new scenes and experiences open on every side. They are evoked by the peculiar personality of our companion and guide, who is a shrewd traveller, keen and quick of comprehension, amiable, sprightly, versed in the manners of the world, full of resources, and equal to most emergencies. A large portion of his volume is occupied with his tour in Russia, which, although not extending beyond the two capital cities, was fruitful in information of a surprising character. He crossed the frontiers of the Empire with many prejudices against it, but seems to have departed from the country leaving most of them behind. What he saw and heard in his intercourse with the people contradicted what he had read. He does not give space to arguments on the subject; he simply records his observations in his usually sprightly and effective manner, leaving to the opportunity afforded by his preface the few serious reflections he has to make on the actual condition of Russia.

MR. THOMAS STEVENS's narrative of his journey "Around the World on a Bicycle" (Scribner) forms a notable chapter in the history of bold enterprises. Alone on his wheel he crossed the continents of America and Europe, and penetrated Asia to the heart of Persia, without serious mishap, but with a succession of novel and stirring experiences. Wherever he appeared his passage created excitement, and at every point he was the centre of curiosity. In civilized countries the attention thus awakened was quite agreeable; but long before he left the confines of Europe he encountered semi-barbarous peoples who regarded him and his strange machine with wonder or terror, and often made his path difficult by their rude and meddlesome obstructions. Mr. Stevens, by his coolness and ready wit, was able to extricate himself from positions that often threatened to be embarrassing. His bicycle proved a toy with which he could beguile and divert most natives even among the Asiatics; and with some exercise of patience and fortitude, he was able to bear the hardships attendant upon his undertaking. He displayed his skill in riding before the Shah of Persia; and in the capital of this sovereign, as at every other resting-place along his route, he was treated with consideration by the highest dignitaries. Mr. Stevens's book is handsomely published by Scribner's Sons, with over a hundred illustrations and a frontispiece portrait of the author.

THE able hands that arranged the various and faded features of "The Story of Chaldea" in a clear and continuous view, have accomplished the same laborious work for its successor among the nations of antiquity. "The Story of Assyria," by Zénaïde A. Ragozin, is one of the most scholarly works in the series of "Stories of the Nations" (Putnam). It will be less popular than some, for the time and people of whom it treats are so remote they have ceased to have a living interest for any but the studiously inclined. Moreover, portions of the history in which confused and obscure annals have to be carefully scanned, their mythic passages cast away, and the verified narratives built together on renewed foundations, can scarcely avoid the charge of dulness, however skilfully manipulated. Yet there are very attractive episodes and chapters included in the story,—those, for example, which depict the career of the Phoenicians, the religion of the sons of Canaan, the relations of Assyria with Israel, and the achievements of the great monarchs who upheld and extended the glory of the nation. In such parts of her work the author has had room to exercise her skill as a narrator. Even in the lighter pages the learning of Madam Ragozin, and her command of oriental history, are plainly manifest.

MR. HENRY B. STANTON's "Random Recollections" (Harper) form a storehouse of valuable matter pertaining to our civil history in the present century. The author's life, begun in 1805 and ended since the advent of 1887, ran through the most exciting period of our national career, and was spent in the thick of the turmoil of public events. He became identified with the anti-slavery movement in 1834, and continued a resolute champion of the cause until the passage of the fifteenth amendment. In 1840, he went, with his newly-married wife, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, to England,

as delegate to the World's Anti-Slavery convention in London. Mr. Stanton was a prolific contributor to the newspapers and magazines, and wrote a volume on the "Reforms and Reformers of Great Britain and Ireland." He met most of the prominent personages of his time, and gained a knowledge of their private history. Almost every name of importance in our country's history during the last half-century is mentioned in his "Recollections," and in connection with some significant incident or amusing anecdote.

THE posthumous volume added to the collection of E. P. Whipple's writings, published by Ticknor & Co., takes its name of "American Literature" from the first and largest of the five papers which it comprises. The second, on "Daniel Webster as a Master of English Style," was prepared originally as an introduction to "Webster's Great Speeches and Orations." The remaining essays have for their respective topics, "Emerson and Carlyle," "Emerson as a Poet," and "Character and Genius of Thomas Starr King." The opening article reviews the works which have given solidity and brilliancy to American letters during the first century of the republic, touching swiftly the prominent authors in the different departments of belles-lettres, and characterizing each with vivid and well chosen terms. In his preliminary remarks in the second essay, Mr. Whipple gives a practical discourse on the method of teaching children the art of writing, which is worth the price of the volume. The poet Whittier adds to the interest of this volume of essays by a preface testifying to the warmth of his friendship for the lamented author.

In the title of his latest volume of sermons, "The Appeal to Life" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.), the Rev. T. T. Munger intimates the broad aim of his religious teaching—to disclose the confirmation of divine revelation which is afforded in human life. The first ten sermons in the collection were delivered from the pulpit, and treat topics which pertain to daily living. The remaining four are more purely literary discourses intended for the general reader, and deal with questions connected with the relations of modern science and thought with the tenets of revealed religion. The forcible thought, the strong intellectual grasp, the rational tone, and the vigorous, compact style, which have given Mr. Munger eminence as a preacher and essayist, are distinctly manifest in these discourses. Each of them has substance enough for many sermons, which the serious reader is impelled to elaborate in his private meditations.

MR. J. R. GILMORE (Edmund Kirke) has been so impressed by the character of the principal personage in his "Rear-Guard of the Revolution," that he has prepared a second work, "John Sevier as a Commonwealth-builder" (Appleton), for the purpose of still further commemorating his heroic deeds. In this sequel to the first named book, he follows the career of Sevier from the peace of 1783 to the end of his life in 1817. In collecting the materials for the biography he has spared no pains to ensure their authenticity; while in bringing them together and shaping them for perusal, he has performed a service to history. Sevier was an able and a brave man, and the part he took in the settlement and formation of Kentucky deserves to be remembered by the citizens of that state and of the Union.

## LITERARY NOTES AND NEWS.

KEATS is the subject of the latest volume in the "English Men of Letters" series. The writer is Mr. Sidney Colvin.

VICTOR Hugo's posthumous work, "Choses Vues," is to be brought out in an English translation, by George Routledge & Sons.

THE EARL of Lytton ("Owen Meredith") has a new volume of poems ready, with the title "After Paradise, or Legends of Exile."

A VOLUME of "Select Poems by Swinburne" is just published by Worthington. The selections, which include representations of both his lyric and dramatic pieces, are made by the poet himself.

MR. ANDREW LANG's work on folk-lore, which has occupied much of his attention for several years, is shortly to be published. It will be in two volumes, with the title "Myth, Ritual, and Religion."

TICKNOR & CO. announce: "Home Sanitation," a manual for housekeepers; "Penelope's Suitors," a novel of colony days in Massachusetts, by E. L. Bynner; "Prose Pastorals," by H. M. Sylvester; and revised editions of their "American Guide-Books" for 1887.

C. W. MOULTON & CO., of Buffalo, whose projected magazine, "The Modern Muse," was announced in our last issue, request us to say that the publication will contain *only* poetry which has previously appeared in print,—not original poetry, as we erroneously stated.

A SERIES of biographies of leading French authors, somewhat in the manner of the "English Men of Letters" series, is shortly to be begun in Paris. Eighteen volumes have already been arranged for. The first two will be given to Victor Cousin and Mad. de Sévigné; the writers being M. Jules Simon and M. Gaston Boisser.

BRET HARTE's new story, "The Crusade of the Excelsior," with four illustrations, is just published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Also, "The Shaybecks in Camp," a summer book, by S. J. and I. C. Barrows; a treatise on "The Law of Divorce," by A. P. Lloyd; and a new edition, revised, of Bacon's "Dictionary of Boston."

THE series of monographs on Political Economy and Public Law, edited by Professor Edmund J. James and published by the University of Pennsylvania, treats in its second number the Anti-Rent Riots in New York, 1839-46, an important but hitherto almost entirely neglected chapter in American economic history. The author is Mr. E. P. Cheyney, Instructor of History in the University of Pennsylvania.

A NEW book on China, by Gen. James H. Wilson, is just published by Appleton & Co. They announce also, "The College and the Church," a collection of papers on educational and denominational questions, reprinted from "The Forum" magazine; "A Game of Chance," a novel by Anne S. Coombs; "A Dateless Bargain," a novel, by C. L. Pirkis; "In the Golden Days," a novel, by Edna Lyall; and a new and cheaper edition of "Arius the Libyan."

BENJAMIN & BELL, a new publishing firm in New York City, begin their career with a curious pamphlet on "The Poets and Poetry of America," believed to have been written by Edgar A. Poe. They announce for immediate issue, "Society

Verse by American Writers," a new edition of "The Book-Lover's Enchiridion," a novel called "Mr. Incoul's Misadventure," by Mr. Edgar Saltus, a volume of essays on Shakespeare by Mr. Appleton Morgan, and a volume of selections from the poetry of Leigh Hunt.

MR. JOHN BARTLETT, well known by his "Shakespeare Phrase-Book" and "Familiar Quotations," sends us his prospectus of "A New and Complete Concordance or Verbal Index to the Dramatic Works of Shakespeare," to contain about sixteen hundred pages. It will be a complete concordance of words, phrases, and passages to be found in the plays of Shakespeare, giving each word in its various uses. The passages are given so full and entire that in most cases it will be found unnecessary to consult the plays themselves. The adopted text is that of the Globe edition, edited by Messrs. Clark and Wright.

THE report of the commission appointed by the University of Pennsylvania to investigate modern spiritualism is just published by J. B. Lippincott Co. This commission was appointed by request of the late Henry Seybert, who founded a chair of philosophy at the university; and among its members are Dr. H. H. Furness, Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, Dr. Wm. Pepper, and other well-known men. Their report is a very full statement of their experiences as investigators, which seem to have been somewhat unsatisfactory in results. The same publishers issue, as a companion volume to the above, "Nineteenth Century Sense, the Paradox of Spiritualism," by John Darby, author of "Odd Hours of a Physician," etc.

MACMILLAN & CO. have just issued a "Victoria" edition of Shakespeare in three volumes, dedicated by special permission to the Queen. It is printed from new type, uniform with the single volume edition of Lord Tennyson's Poetical Works, and contains a new glossary specially prepared for this edition by Mr. Aldis Wright. The same publishers announce also the new edition of Boswell's Life of Johnson which the author of "Dr. Johnson, his Friends and his Critics," has been preparing for many years. Besides portraits and other illustrations, the work will contain a concordance of Johnson's sayings and a very elaborate index, this last being intended to form a key to the vast mass of literature and anecdote which has accumulated around the name of Johnson.

IN connection with the paper on "Political and Economic Literature from the Universities," in this number of THE DIAL, attention may be called to the announcement of the faculty of Political Science of Columbia College, that they have in preparation a series of systematic works covering the entire field of political science proper and of the allied sciences of public law and economics, and aiming to present the latest results of institutional development and of scientific thought in Europe and America. The series will consist of the following volumes: "History of Political Theories," by Archibald Alexander; "Comparative Constitutional Law and Politics," by John W. Burgess; "Comparative Constitutional Law of the American Commonwealths," by F. W. Whitridge; "Historical and Practical Political Economy," by Richmond M. Smith; "Historical and Comparative Science of Finance," by Edwin R. A. Seligman; "Comparative Administrative Law and Science," by Frank J. Goodnow;

"International Law," by Theodore W. Dwight; "Historical and Comparative Jurisprudence," by Munroe Smith; "Literature of Political Science," by George H. Baker. The first of these volumes will be published in December, and the entire series will probably be completed within four years.

THE American Historical Association's fourth annual meeting, at Boston, late in May, was, both in attendance and transactions, decidedly the most important and encouraging of the gatherings of the society. Of great practical value was, especially, Mr. Justin Winsor's address upon the subject of American historical manuscripts and their collection and preservation in various parts of the country. The Association, as a result of Mr. Winsor's paper, appointed a committee to take measures for the establishment of a governmental commission for the collection and care of historical manuscripts. The Boston meeting was held in connection with the American Economic Association, as many of the members belong to both societies. Next year (in September) the joint meeting will be held at Columbus, Ohio. The West was further honored in the choice, by the Historical Society, of Dr. W. F. Poole, of Chicago, as its President for the ensuing year,—a compliment which THE DIAL takes special pleasure in recognizing, since most of Dr. Poole's historical papers of recent years have been written for its pages. The other newly-elected officers of the society are: Dr. Charles Kendall Adams, President of Cornell University, and Hon. John Jay, of New York, Vice-Presidents; Prof. Herbert B. Adams, of Johns Hopkins University, Secretary; C. W. Bowen, of New York, Treasurer; and Hon. Andrew D. White, Hon. George Bancroft, Hon. R. B. Hayes, Mr. Justin Winsor, Prof. John W. Burgess, Prof. Arthur M. Wheeler, and Hon. Wm. Wirt Henry, Executive Councillors.

#### TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS.

JULY, 1887.

Adams, John. George Bancroft. *Century*.  
Alkestis of Euripides. W. C. Lawton. *Atlantic*.  
Am. Botanists. W. G. Farlow. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
Am. Classics in Schools. H. E. Scudder. *Atlantic*.  
Am. History, MS. Sources of Justin Winsor. *Mag. Am. Hist.*  
Am. Students in Germany. M. B. Crawford. *Century*.  
Atlanta. O. O. Howard. *Century*.  
Books, Making of. R. R. Bowker. *Harper*.  
Books that Have Helped Me. A. P. Peabody. *Forum*.  
Canada. D. A. Poe. *Forum*.  
Cherokees, Journalism among. G. E. Foster. *Mag. Am. Hist.*  
Christian Union. R. S. MacArthur. *Century*.  
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Economic Disturbances since 1873. D. A. Wells. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
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Human Statute. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
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Lakes of No. America. Isaac Kinley. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
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Laurens, Henry. Martha J. Lamb. *Mag. Am. Hist.*  
Lawsuit or Legacy. H. H. Gardener. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
Lea, Isaac. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
Life, The Object of. Grant Allen. *Forum*.  
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Longfellow Memorial. E. G. Johnson. *Dial*.  
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Men and Women, Mental Differences of. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
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Municipal Government, Reform in. *Century*.  
Muybridge Photographs, The. T. Williams. *Century*.

Napoleon. J. C. Ropes. *Scribner*.  
Our Hundred Days in Europe. O. W. Holmes. *Atlantic*.  
Over-Education. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
Panama Canal, The. S. F. Weld. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
Portsmouth, Water-Ways of. Louise L. Guiney. *Atlantic*.  
Princeton, Is it Humanizing? Newman Smyth. *Forum*.  
Race Prejudice at Summer Resorts. *Forum*.  
Railroad Problem, The. W. A. Crafts. *Atlantic*.  
Relation the Ultimate Truth. Mary Parmelee. *Forum*.  
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Thousands Islands, The. Grant Allen. *Pop. Sci. Mo.*  
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West Point. Charles King. *Harper*.  
West Point and the Army. F. P. Powers. *Lippincott*.  
White House, The Mistress of. Lucy C. Lillie. *Lippincott*.  
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#### BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following List contains all New Books, American and Foreign, received during the month of June by MESSRS. A. C. MCCLURG & CO., Chicago.]

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*Letters of Horatio Greenough* to his brother Henry Greenough. With Biographical Sketches. Edited by Frances B. Greenough. 12mo, pp. 250. Ticknor & Co. \$1.25.

*Around the World on a Bicycle*. Vol. I. From San Francisco to Teheran. By Thomas Stevens. 8vo, pp. 547. C. Scribner's Sons. \$4.00.

*The World as We Saw It*. By Mrs. Amos R. Little. 4to, pp. 476. Cupples & Hurd. \$7.50.

*Letters from the Far East*. Being Impressions of a Tour Around the World by way of England, India, China and Japan during 1885-86. By De Lancey Floyd Jones. 8vo, pp. 277. Public Service Publishing Co. \$2.00.

*The Story of Assyria*. From the Rise of the Empire to the Fall of Nineveh (continued from "The Story of Chaldea"). By Z. A. Bagozin. 12mo, pp. 450. "The Story of the Nations." G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.

#### ESSAYS—BELLES-LETTRES—ETC.

*Renaissance in Italy*. Part V. The Catholic Reaction. By J. A. Symonds. 2 vols., 8vo. H. Holt & Co. \$7.50.

*Richard the Third* and The *Primrose* Criticism. 16mo, pp. 164. Gilt top. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.00.

*Reminiscences*. By Thomas Carlyle. Edited by C. E. Norton. 12mo, pp. 323. Macmillan & Co. \$2.50.

*Obiter Dicta. Second Series*. By Augustine Birrell. 16mo, pp. 291. Gilt top. C. Scribner's Sons. \$1.00.

*The Sunny Side of Shadow*. Reveries of a Convalescent. By Fannie N. Benjamin. 18mo, pp. 188. Ticknor & Co. \$1.00.

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*The College and the Church*. The "How I was Educated" Papers and Denominational "Confessions." From the Forum Magazine. 8vo, pp. 214. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.

*Memorials of a Half-Century*. By Bela Hubbard. 8vo, pp. 581. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.00.

*Men and Manners in America* One Hundred Years Ago. Edited by H. E. Scudder. New edition. 16mo, pp. 320. C. Scribner's Sons. \$1.25.

*Selected Essays of Joseph Addison*. With an Introduction by C. T. Winchester. 16mo, pp. 173. Chautauqua Press. 75 cents.

*From the Marriage License Window*. Observations made, and Incidents told. Facts from every-day life. By M. Salmonson. 16mo, pp. 206. John Anderson & Co. \$1.00.

*The Poets and Poetry of America*. A Satire by "Levante," published in Philadelphia in 1847. With an introductory argument to prove that "Levante" was Edgar A. Poe, by Geoffrey Quarles. Paper. Benjamin & Bell. 50 cents.

#### POETRY—MUSIC—DRAMA.

*The Sailing of King Olaf*, and other Poems. By Alice W. Brotherton. 18mo, pp. 145. C. H. Kerr & Co. \$1.00.

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